fastened down upon the upper surface of the wooden framework, and which also serve to divert the wet from the centre of the wood frame. The upper edge of the wall sheets are bolted to a flange cast along the under side of the gutter. Moulded capitals of a foliated design, and a panel in the body of the pilaster, with the projecting moulded front of the cast-iron gutter running along the eaves, give a good effect to the design. At the gable the roof projects boldly over the face of the building, and a barge of cast-iron, surmounted by a pointed finial, the angle pilasters and two intermediate ones, and the returns at the corners of the moulded gutters, afford relief to the gables. The front is divided by the pilasters into seven bays: in the centre bay is the entrance door, and in those adjoining on each side are windows: in those next to the ends are also windows; and the two intermediate and otherwise blank bays are relieved by the downpipes which descend from the gutters. The back is similarly arranged, save that there is no door, but only the four windows. At one of the ends to the right of the central or side door, there is another door: the other end has no opening. The doors are of wood, panelled and moulded, 3 feet 6 inches wide, and are hung in wooden frames, which are fitted to the corrugated sheets. The window-frames and sashes are also of wood, and are hinged in the manner of French casements. The doors are each surmounted outside by iron castings of the royal arms,—which form an appropriate ornament. In the centre of the roof is fixed an iron ventilator, with a hipped cover: a wooden valve worked from the interior by a rope running over pulleys, enables the aperture to be opened or closed at pleasure. The whole of the several parts of the structure are fastened together by small bolts, and are designed with a view to the attainment of the greatest possible convenience in erection and removal, and to the exclusion of moisture. It is to be floored at Balmoral, so as to save the cost of the transit of timber; and the dimensions having been furnished some time since, the flooring is all prepared, so that no delay will arise on that score, the floor being laid during the erection of the house. It is anticipated that it will be ready for occupation about the middle of the week after next. Its cost, we understand, is about 300*l*.

The iron corrugated plates are a form of sheet iron which is found to have very great resistance to weight and pressure, and therefore to be admirably calculated for use, either as walls or as roofs. The thickness of the plates used for the Balmoral ball-room is No. 18, wire-gauge, which is less than the sixteenth of an inch in thickness. The corrugations are about an inch and a half deep, and about 5 inches apart from one centre to another. The sheet of iron is thus made capable of supporting a weight equivalent to that which a series of beams, side by side, and of an inch and a half deep, could carry. One such plate, 8 feet long and 2 feet wide, with 7 feet clear of bearings, bore the weight of three persons (probably about the weight of 5 cwt.) standing upon it together.

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Repair of Lambeth Palace.—I beg to call your attention to some work which is now being proceeded with at Lambeth—I allude to the repair of the gateway of Lambeth Palace. Sometime since, the western tower was repaired, and the eastern is now undergoing that process. The building was originally ornamented with coloured bricks forming different devices on the face of the building, but I am sorry to say that the greater portion of these have now disappeared, for wherever the bricks have been decayed or removed new ones have been inserted, and this without any regard to ornament. I can scarcely believe that the Archbishop himself is aware of the fact, and I trust that you will, ere it is too late, say a word or two on the subject; and if you are kind enough to do so, it may lead to a *restoration*, which will be better than a repair, and this more especially as the new church adjoining is fast approaching completion. O. S.

## FRANCE AND ENGLAND,—A COMPARISON.

During the last week three notices have appeared in the French papers—the 1st, from the directors of the musée, that five new rooms (salles) would be immediately opened; the 2nd, that the Assemblée had voted 30,000 francs for clearing the ruins of Memphis; the 3rd, the apportionment of a considerable sum amongst a number of artists, for paintings in various churches. This is in ruined France. Rich England has too, it is said, lately added two pictures to the National Gallery, the most expensive of which cost 300*l*. How long are we to be in the rear of artistic Europe? Yet our Government is not satisfied with doing nothing,—but love to indulge in peddling bits of mischief. Witness the buildings near the palace at Kensington, the new cross walk, the new ride, the destruction of the old wall, and, in consequence, of the quiet and charming walk which it defended;—the attempted attack upon Greenwich park,—the great house of Mr. Holford, the additions to the grounds of every villa, and latterly, the erection of a mis-shapen lodge in that beautiful bit between the bridge and the botanical garden in the Regent's Park,—and, crowning sin, the caricature on the arch at Hyde Park Corner. The history of the last, from beginning to end, is indeed a disgrace to all who bore part in the plot. A Friend of Art.

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## STRIKES.

The numerous strikes that have of late occurred, are not a pleasant feature in trade at present, although they rather seem to be connected with an improving than a falling condition of things.——The workmen at the Lincoln foundry struck work lately, and the firm having conceded two points required by the hands, viz., one hour less a week, and twenty-five per cent. more for over-time than for usual work, the workmen "by the advice of the delegates from London," abandoned other, and it is said, unreasonable demands, and work was resumed.——On the 1st instant, says the *Armagh Guardian*, the workmen employed by the Drainage Commissioners on the river Blackwater, struck for an advance of wages, and proceeded *en masse* to the residence of Mr. Gerrard, the assistant engineer, requesting him to raise their wages; but, not willing to comply with their *polite* request, he gave a negative to their proposal. They went to work in a few days again all right, expecting all things were forgot, and that nought but harmony prevailed: the engineer was of a different opinion, and a few of the unruly members received something in the shape of a summons. It seems they were quite ignorant that such a thing as law would meet their case, and were rather shy when they were told that 1*l*. was necessary, or a week or two in prison. It is to be hoped, says the *Guardian*, that this may prove a warning, as *the work commenced at a period when there was no money to be earned in the country, and the workmen seemed very eager to obtain employment.*——In reference to a strike on the Dublin and Belfast Junction Railway, amongst stone-cutters and masons, the *Newry Examiner* says:—We deeply regret to state that the strike on the above line, at the Creigmore viaduct, near Newry, still continues. The misguided men, who have been now a fortnight idle, evince no desire to return to their work, and we understand it is the determination of the contractors, Messrs. Killen and Moore, not to yield to their dictation. These gentlemen have for a long series of years been the most liberal of employers. They were first to introduce the excellent system of paying their men at the works instead of at public-houses, and such other similar places of resort. When we mention that the wages given their masons and stone-cutters range from 21*s*. to 30*s*. per week, in proportion to skill, it will be seen that the present combination is altogether unjustifiable. The evil is not confined to the masons and stone-cutters themselves, but no less than 500 poor labourers are thrown out of employment, whose families were altogether dependent upon their exertions for support."——In reference to the following grave detail by the *Daily News* of the doings of a central combination of workmen in London, on the model, seemingly, of the dictatorial and unscrupulous Parisian association, to which we had occasion some time since to refer, we may remark that although we have ever had the prosperity and welfare of the working classes at heart, we cannot think that this welfare is to be promoted by dictatorial and despotic, as well as unscrupulous conduct on the part of the workmen any more than of the masters; and that, even when every other difference is squared and fair dealings and doings otherwise religiously observed on both sides, it is not either right or desirable, and can never promote the welfare of the body corporate, that the *head* should be *undermost*, and the other members uppermost. The case referred to is that of Mr. Perry, tin-plate worker, Wolverhampton, and his workmen. Up to last April Mr. Perry and his men had gone on comfortably and peaceably on long-established rates. In that month he received by the London post an official-looking letter, from a body calling itself the "National Association of Trades Unions," and signed "William Peele, secretary." This communication informed him, for the first time, that differences existed between him and his men, and that a deputation of persons from the metropolis would shortly wait upon him, for the purpose of mediating on these disputes. Similar letters, with the like intimation, were also addressed to the other five houses in the same trade in the town. In due course the deputation came, accompanied by three or four of his own men: his London visitors explained to Mr. Perry that they represented a great society, which had Mr. T. S. Duncombe for its president, and a fund of 20,000*l*. for the support of its policy: they expressed a desire that the existing rates of wages in all the manufactories should be assimilated, though their circumstances, as would appear, greatly varied; and they handed Mr. Perry what they called a "Book of Prices," but which was simply a scale of wages, for his adoption. Instead of at once repudiating their interference, Mr. Perry temporised with them, until he had got large orders in progress executed, a considerable stock on hand, and written contracts formed with sixty of his best men. Then he announced the resolution he had formed on their first intrusion—that he did not intend to submit to the dictation of strangers in the management of his business. War was at once declared against him and those of his trade who acted with him, by the "National Association;" and it was begun and carried on in a most unscrupulous manner. War requires funds. Now, though the association was said to have 20,000*l*. at its disposal, the first thing its secretary did was to issue a "levy" on its members, and to announce that all the tin-plate workers who left their employment should receive 12*s*. 6*d*. a week. A "secret committee" was formed by the metropolitan delegates, and divided into sub-committees. To one was assigned the duty of receiving the "levy" and paying the weekly contributions; to a second, the task of placarding Wolverhampton with scurrilous songs and libellous publications; and to a third, the seduction and abduction of workmen and apprentices. Mr. Perry's contract men were seduced into beer-houses; made drunk; when in a state of insensibility were then disguised, taken to the railway station, and despatched, without the knowledge of their wives and families, to distant places, where they were maintained in secrecy and under moral duresse. Three-fourths of Mr. Perry's men were lured away. His apprentices were induced to idle over their work, to spoil it, and to retard the operations of those willing to do their duty. Tin was stolen, tools were missing, patterns were destroyed, boys were abducted and taken off to London at a cost of 8*s*. each a week; a number of Frenchmen, engaged to supply the vacant places, were tampered with, and twenty of them were carried off by one of the delegates, and their expenses back to Paris were paid by the association. At last, privations brought some of the abducted workmen back to his shops: they asked forgiveness, resumed

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